

WASHINGTON SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
February 6, 2009

Board Members: Allie Joiner (District #1)
Pat Clothier (District #2)
Gail Pollock (District #3)
Nita Kamphuis (District #4)
Rita Reandeau (District #6)
Ariele Belo (District #7)
Sidney Weldele-Wallace (District #8)
Larry Swift (District #9)

Absent: Char Parsley (District #5)

Legal Counsel: Bonnie Terada

Superintendent: Rick Hauan

Guests: April Rounds, Human Resources Manager
Jane Mulholland, Assistant Superintendent
Kris Rydecki, Director of Outreach
Lorana Myers, Federation
Carey Price, WSDAA
Heidi Redford, PSO

Recorder: Judy Smith

Interpreters: Roslyn Ward, Don Coates

The meeting was called to order by Allie Joiner, Board Chair, at 9:11 a.m. It was determined that a quorum was present.

Minutes from December 5, 2008, meeting

Pat Clothier moved that the December 5, 2008, minutes be approved as written. Rita Reandeau seconded the motion. It was voted on and approved.

Financial Update (Board Finance Committee)

The Board Finance Committee met this morning. The software for the phone system upgrade has been reviewed and should be up and running mid-March.

Budget Summary – Congratulations to the WSD staff for meeting the challenge of saving money during very troubling fiscal times. Trend lines show a sharp decrease in expenditures. Each staff member has worked hard to reduce costs while not reducing services to students. Kudos to all!

The legislature is currently discussing additional cuts throughout the state. Nothing official has been received as yet. The Board will be notified of any updates.

Cost saving ideas (April Rounds, Human Resources Manager)

(Handout) Staff members have been submitting cost saving ideas, many of which have been implemented. Suggestion boxes are located in each department, suggestions are reviewed weekly during Leadership Team meetings and an update is emailed to staff monthly. The Board will be provided actual dollars saved at the next meeting. The Leadership Team will take all the cost savings generated so far and identify which are temporary changes and which are long term system changes. The Board would like to congratulate the staff on their cost savings suggestions.

The Superintendent commended the Board Finance Committee for their work at the January budget meeting. Also, special thanks to the South Kitsap School District for allowing the Committee to meet at their facility.

Reports

- **Rick Hauan, Superintendent**

- **Legislative visits**

- House Bill 1879 ("Providing for the delivery of education services to children who are deaf and hearing impaired") was introduced on February 2nd. The Superintendent met with Representative Jim Jacks (one of the sponsors of the bill) during his recent visit to Olympia. Rep. Jacks is very supportive of WSD and its services to students throughout the state. The Superintendent shared his conversations with other legislators he met with. Senator McAuliffe congratulated the Superintendent and WSD staff for the outstanding job they have done.

- A hearing on HB 1879 will be held on Tuesday, February 10th in the Early Learning & Children's Services Committee meeting. Several members of the Board are planning to attend.

- The Board commended the Superintendent for allocating his time to work with legislators in support of WSD.

- **Student transportation co-op**

- Options are being reviewed for day and weekend transportation. A meeting was recently held with WSSB to discuss the possibility of sharing costs in areas where students from both schools are transported.

- **Listen & Talk**

- The Superintendent and Director of Outreach, Kris Rydecki, met with Listen & Talk staff to discuss funding. Kris is working closely with the Listen & Talk's program director, Maura Berndsen, and will be joining her on school visits in March. The WSD/ Listen & Talk partnership is currently serving 33 children throughout the state of Washington.

- **Hands & Voices**

- Hands & Voices is in the process of putting together policies and procedures. They are also completing the paperwork to obtain non-profit status.

- **SchoolMessenger**
 - WSD has subscribed to SchoolMessenger, is a communication tool which will alert parents and staff of emergencies (i.e. school closure, etc.). This program will send messages via email, pager, and telephone. It will also translate messages into other languages.
- **RESPECT**
 - The Superintendent and Director of Outreach recently attended a RESPECT (Deaf educator group) meeting. The Superintendent presented on "Vis a Vis Livetalk", a face to face video communication system. This 100% secure application sits on the web using web based technology. The messaging tool "Viable" was also presented at the meeting. Both tools would offer easy technological access for parents.
- **House and Senate Analysts**
 - The Superintendent recently met with the House and Senate Fiscal Analysts and shared with them what the Board Finance Committee has been working on. They were impressed with the level of detail provided to them and with that information said they can better advocate for WSD.
- **NW Classic**
 - Jane Mulholland will address this topic later in the meeting.
- **Emergency signaling system**
 - WSD is purchasing an emergency management and communication system. This system will send out alerts via telephones, pagers, cell phones, etc. Also included is a public communication system using computers in the classrooms and larger media panels in select locations. Money for this system is available and will not be taken out of WSD's operating budget.
 - The emergency management and communication system should be up and running by the beginning of the 2009/2010 school year
- **ILS Food Drive**
 - The ILS Food Drive was a huge success thanks to donations from staff and the Board of Trustees. The students exceeded their goal of 600 items. The final count was 867!
- **Deaf Bilingual Coalition Meeting - February 6, 2009**
 - Both Allie Joiner and the Superintendent will attend the above meeting this evening. WSD's Director of Outreach and ASL Communication Specialist will also be attending.
- **WSD's 123rd Birthday**
 - WSD celebrated its 123rd birthday on Tuesday, February 3rd.
 - An assembly highlighting WSD's history was held in the morning with birthday cake in the afternoon.
 - Thanks to both Carey Price and Teresa Stotler-Martin for setting up this wonderful event.

- **PSO moving**
 - PSO is moving their office from Epperson to a much larger space in Northrop building.
- **D.E.A.F.**
 - D.E.A.F. was awarded a \$10,000 grant for Post High School activities from The Community Giving Fund. Thanks to D.E.A.F.'s Board members for their continued support of WSD and its students.
- **WSQA (Washington State Quality Award)**
 - The light assessment feedback report has been received (part of the Board packet).
 - The report and its recommendations will be discussed at a future meeting.
 - The Board complimented the Leadership Team for their work on this project.
- **Jane Mulholland, Assistant Superintendent**
 - **WSBC/WSCC**
 - The students were wonderful ambassadors. WSD highlights include:
 - 1st Place: Banner Award
 - 2nd Place: Cheerleading
 - 5th Place: Girls Basketball
 - 6th Place: Boys Basketball
 - A great time was had by all.
 - **NW Classic**
 - The Athletic/Recreation Director has put together a stakeholders group to discuss ideas for a NW Classic.

The option being explored is a Student Leadership Conference (grades 7 – 10th). At this conference students would be given the tools and assistance to help them become leaders. Participation will not be based on academic performance or previous leadership experience, so students at all levels can be involved.

- **Team WSD**
 - Team WSD recently celebrated its first anniversary.
 - Areas of focus this year include:
 - Work place bullying
 - Staff management relationships
 - Communication.
 - Team WSD members have a strong commitment to work on areas of improvement.
- **April Rounds, Human Resources Manager**
 - WSD's registered nurse recently retired. The recruitment for a new RN ends February 10th. Six applications have been received so far.
 - An on-call LPN has been hired to help during the interim
 - Several on-call SLCs have been hired
 - TRI (Time, Responsibility, and Incentive) lawsuit update – This case has been settled and WSD has been paying certificated employees correctly so no back monies are owed.

The Superintendent congratulated April Rounds for the outstanding job she is doing as HR Manager.

Construction Update

- *Kastel building – construction is eight days behind due to inclement weather. This should not affect the move-in which is scheduled for early August 2009.*
 - *The Superintendent is working with WSDAA on a grand opening event which will take place during the middle of September 2009.*
 - *Invitees should include those that attended the ground breaking as well as all former Board members.*
 - *The new ground source heat pump requires three wells. Wells are being dug behind MacDonald Cottage. Because of rocks and extremely hard soil one of the wells had to be filled in and a new one started which caused a short delay.*

Policy Review – 1st Reading

- *Self-Harm/Suicide Threats/Suicide Attempts by Students*
 - *Early parent notification is essential*
 - *Language will be added for adult students*
 - *Add to the procedures information regarding student supervision after threat has been made*
 - *“Suicide will not be tolerated” – reword*
 - *Go back and look at supervision, medical rights for minors who are 12 years old and older for mental health issues – how to notify parents.*
 - *Identify what “ESP” means (Extra Supervision Pupil)*

Curriculum and Assessment (Shauna Bilyeu, Curriculum Coordinator)

- *(PowerPoint presentation) “Assessment Practices at Washington School for the Deaf – Past, Current and the Future”*
 - *MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) is a comprehensive diagnostic and formative assessment that will provide aggregated school-wide data as well as student specific information.*
 - *Fourteen Schools for the Deaf and over 100 school districts in Washington are using this program, and the overall reaction is very positive.*
 - *(handouts) Cost information and frequently asked questions*
 - *The initial cost of the program is \$4,200 with an annual cost of \$1,500.*
 - *Many states are looking at MAP-type testing to replace their state testing.*
 - *Gail Pollock moved that the Board approve the purchase of the MAP assessment program. Pat Clothier seconded the motion. It was voted on and approved.*
 - *Information regarding this program will be added to WSD’s web page.*
 - *The Superintendent thanked Shauna, Jane, and Bill for their work in addressing the gap in student assessment.*

School Improvement Initiatives 2008-2011 (Jane Mulholland, Assistant Superintendent)

- **Curriculum development** – many staff hours have been put into developing curriculum that will provide WSD students with a solid foundation.
- **Comprehensive System of Assessment** – WSD staff are excited about the MAP assessment program and the vital information it will provide on student progress.
- **ASL-English Bi-lingual Instructional Strategy** – a presentation will be given later in the meeting. April McArthur, Jenn Christianson, Raye Schafer, and Shauna Bilyeu have been involved in the AEBPD (ASL/English Bilingual Professional Development) program.
- **IEP Process and Compliance** – Meetings were held in summer 2008 to see where work is needed. During the school year staff members meet weekly to discuss issues that arise. A big thank you to Chris Newell for carrying the burden of IEP compliance for many years. A special education secretary was hired to help define the system and make sure WSD is always in compliance.
- **Admissions Process** – WSD has processed 25 students since the beginning of the school year. The Admissions team is working to streamline the process and bring structure to the 30-day diagnostic period.
- **Behavioral Services & Behavior Management** – WSD currently has many programs in place:
 - BRF (Behavioral Referral Form) – incidents are documented and data is discussed weekly at the Leadership Team meeting
 - STAT (SLC/Teacher Assessment Team) - weekly meetings are held to discuss students who are having behavioral issues
 - ESP (Extra Supervision Pupil) – students who need extra supervision
 - CPI (Crisis Prevention Intervention) - safety training for staff
 - A school-wide positive behavioral support program will be discussed at a future meeting.
- **Vocational Opportunities & Transition Services**
 - The Transition Team (Chris Fertig, David Born, Teresa Stotler-Martin) meet weekly with the Assistant Superintendent and Principal
 - The idea of forming an advisory group of individuals from outside WSD to assist with establishing community access and vocational opportunities for WSD students was discussed.
- **Post High School Program**
 - Team approach – Jane Mulholland (Assistant Superintendent), Bill Newell (Academic), Kris Rydecki (Outreach), Dan Crady, Nancy Sinkovitz (Residential), and Chris Fertig (work experience)
 - Monthly meetings are held. A half-day long-term planning meeting was held on February 5th to discuss ideas on how to serve more students and get the word out regarding the Post High School program.
- **Technology**
 - Kastel building will have a much greater capacity for technology than our older buildings currently have.

- The Technology Committee (facilitated by the Superintendent) will give staff a voice in technology decisions.
- **Library Services**
 - The Librarian, Ginger Speranza, has done an outstanding job in providing our students with many wonderful activities and organizing and improving library services in general.
- **Team WSD**
 - Discussed earlier in the meeting.
- From the Board: All team members need to step back and pat themselves on the back. Great job!

ASL-English Bilingual Committee (April McArthur, Teacher of the Deaf)

- (PowerPoint) Will use existing models and adapt them to Washington state standards.
- Future goals include:
 - Use best practices in ASL-English bilingual education
 - AEBPD (ASL English Bilingual Professional Development) mentor training
 - Create & implement an ASL curriculum
 - Two suggested programs for students attending WSD
 - Maintenance program for those students that have a background in ASL
 - Immersion program for students that have very little or no ASL background.

Executive Session

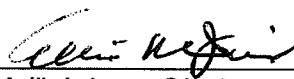
The Executive Session was cancelled.

March meeting – March 6, 2009


The March meeting will be held on the Vancouver campus.

Adjournment

Ariele Belo moved that the meeting be adjourned. Gail Pollock seconded the motion. It was voted on and approved. The meeting adjourned at 1:51p.m.


 Allie "AJ" Joiner, Chair
 WSD Board of Trustees

3/5/09
 Date


 Rick Hauan, Superintendent
 Washington School for the Deaf

3/6/09
 Date

